

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

With the exception of students transferring from another Rhode Island school district, pupils will only be admitted to kindergarten at the beginning of the fall term. The prospective student must have attained the age of five by September 1 of the entrance year (RIGL §16-2-27). Parents will be required to submit the child's birth certificate, immunization documentation, and the results of a recent physical exam.

Prior to consideration for admittance, prospective students will participate in a comprehensive kindergarten readiness screening process that evaluates social-emotional readiness and foundational academic concepts necessary for kindergarten. Since a determination of readiness to participate successfully in the district's kindergarten program is the overriding goal of the process, the early elementary faculty and staff at the Block Island School will perform the initial screening and evaluate the results. The team's decision will be based on the child's social-emotional and physical maturity levels as informed by the screening process.

If a child will not reach the age of five by September 1 and a parent provides evidence of kindergarten readiness, he/she may request to meet with the principal, special education director, kindergarten teacher, and preschool teacher to discuss the feasibility and appropriateness of an evaluation by an outside agency to determine readiness. The decision regarding early entrance to kindergarten requires careful consideration of all factors. The academic and social-emotional readiness, as well as the student's physical development and well-being, must be weighed and considered. Sound decision making in the area of early entrance to kindergarten is dependent upon reliable information regarding a student's readiness and thoughtful balancing of the myriad of factors implicated by the decision. If the Early Childhood team agrees that such an evaluation is warranted it will be provided at no cost to the parent. The request for early entry must be made prior to June 1 so that adequate time is available for this process to ensue.

If a child is admitted for early entrance to kindergarten, the child will be allowed to move to first grade if he/she successfully completes the kindergarten program.

The following procedures will be used to address all requests for early kindergarten admission:

1. Requests for early admission to kindergarten will be accepted between March 1 and June 1 by the New Shoreham Superintendent of Schools. Residents who move into New Shoreham after the closing date but prior to August 1 may apply for screening by July 31. The initial request will include: A) An up-to-date certified immunization record, B) a certified birth certificate, and C) results of a recent physical examination.
2. An evaluation of the child's potential to benefit from early admission to kindergarten is required. Parent(s)/guardian(s) authorization for any evaluation is required. The local evaluation

by the Early Childhood team, which will include a child psychologist, will be at no cost to the parent(s)/guardian(s). It should be completed within a reasonable time period.

3. An evaluation completed by outside providers and paid for by the parent(s) and/or guardian will be considered in the determination of early entrance to kindergarten.
4. In order to withstand the rigors of the kindergarten program, the early entry student must be able to demonstrate that he/she has the social-emotional, intellectual, and developmental level of a five-year old. To assess these areas, the following assessments will be part of the process: Early Screening Inventory – Kindergarten; the Fluharty Pre-School Speech and Language Screening Test; and First Step, a special education screening test designed to identify learning disabilities.
5. After the evaluation is completed, the Superintendent/Designee will notify the parent(s) of the results. A written summary of the evaluation findings shall be made available to the parent(s)/guardian(s).
6. If a decision is made to not allow a child early admittance to kindergarten by the Early Childhood Team, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal the decision to the Superintendent within 10 business days.
7. If a decision is made by the Superintendent that does not allow a child early admittance to kindergarten, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal the decision with the Rhode Island Department of Education.